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**PROJECT:** **SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA  
PHASE II: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICY AND  
ACTION PLAN**

**Disarmament focus:** **Small Arms**

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**Proposed timeframe:** **September 2009 – August 2011**

**Geographical focus:** **Sri Lanka**

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### **BACKGROUND**

To address the problem of proliferation of illicit small arms and in compliance with the United Nations Programme of Action, the National Commission against the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCAPISA) was established by the President of Sri Lanka in October 2004.

Based on a request from the Government of Sri Lanka, the United Nations, with funding provided by the Government of Japan, developed a project to support the functioning of the National Commission and the design and implementation of various activities aimed at raising awareness of problem of proliferation of illicit small arms and building the country's capacity to tackle such a problem.

The project was developed and implemented as a United Nations inter-agency collaboration, involving UNODA, DESA and UNDP. In addition, a partnership was formed with the international NGO Saferworld. The Government of Sri Lanka provided political support to the project and secured facilities, including furnished premises, for the operation of the National Commission.

The project enabled the National Commission to carry out a number of awareness-raising and weapons destruction activities, provide training for law enforcement officials, and develop an electronic record-keeping system for small arms. Also under the auspices of the project, the Government undertook a comprehensive national survey of the small arms situation in the country, which formed the basis for a national action plan that identifies priority areas for action, defines strategic objectives and lays out implementation arrangements. The National Policy and Action Plan (NPAP) forms an effective tool for policy guidance and for fostering a systematic and coherent approach to combating the problems posed by the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms in Sri Lanka.

The aforementioned project was concluded in July 2008, after successful completion of all of its objectives. It is critical now that a second phase of the project be funded and implemented in order to provide continuity and secure the consolidation of the gains obtained through the previous project. Moreover, the second phase of the project would aim to implement the most immediate disarmament objectives contained in the National Plan of Action, such as finalizing the relevant legislative reforms, improving the administrative framework for regulating civilian possession of small arms, and improving

the management of national stocks. The second phase of this proven successful project would also place emphasis on strengthening the capacity of relevant civil society organizations and awareness raising among the youth.

### **OBJECTIVES**

To consolidate the progress made during the first phase of the project and give impetus to the implementation of the National Policy and Action Plan (NPAP), by:

- Continuing to build the capacity of the National Commission on SALW;
- Implementing those objectives contained in the NPAP which require immediate action;
- Strengthening the relevant civil society organizations in order to enable an improved partnership with the Government and a more effective civil society intervention in all stages of the country's small arms process, from policy formulation to implementation of specific activities; and
- Providing a framework for addressing the relationship between Youth and small arms, with a view to proposing preventive measures targeted to that age group.

### **CONTENT AND DESIGN**

The project will contain a set of substantive objectives that will need to be achieved by the Government with the support of the National Commission and national and international partners. Project activities will include support to operationalization of the National Commission, further development of relevant legislation and administrative procedures aimed at controlling civilian possession, training for law enforcement officials, further capacity-building for the National Commission, including training in fund-raising and other training aimed at the long-term ensuring sustainability of the National Commission; Capacity-building for the National Youth Council the Ministry of Youth and relevant civil society organizations, and improvement of the management of national stocks of small arms. The project will have a "weapons for development" component for some of the post-conflict communities that will be identified jointly with the National Commission.

### **IMPACT**

The project will enhance Sri Lanka's capacity to combat the problem of proliferation of illicit small arms. Local populations will benefit from heightened awareness of the problem, especially among the youth, and the increased security that would ensue from a reduction in the availability of illicit weapons. Policies and projects would be designed and implemented in a more comprehensive and coherent manner, leading to less duplication and more effective results.

### **BENEFICIARIES**

The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the members of the NCAPISA and other officials of the Government of Sri Lanka responsible for weapons control, peace building, law enforcement and management as well as members of post-conflict communities who will benefit from "weapons for development" scheme. The indirect beneficiaries will be

the people of Sri Lanka, especially youth who, as a result of the project, will enjoy improved security and stability.

**PARTNERS**

The project would be implemented by UNODA, DESA and UNDP in partnership with the National Commission and interested international and national non-governmental organizations.

**BUDGET**

It is estimated that the cost of the project will amount to approximately **\$215,000** draft project document with the necessary details is available upon request.